

App. No. 09/432,904
Amdt. Dated November 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2004

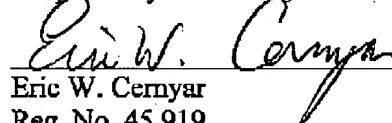
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated October 4, 2004, the Examiner rejected claim 1, allowed claims 8-20, and indicated that claims 2-7 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, incorporating all of the limitations of the intervening base claims.

Applicant has cancelled claim 1 and amended claims 2-3 into independent form, incorporating the limitations of the base claim (1). Claims 4-7 depend from claim 3, so they have not been further amended. Claim 17 was also amended, to correct a minor typographical defect. The Commissioner has been authorized to charge any fees that may be required to Kinetic Concepts' deposit account number 500-326.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 2-20 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


Eric W. Cernyar
Reg. No. 45,919
Attorney for the Applicant

TEL: (210) 863-0063
FAX: (210) 255-6969